present practice. However, the private unaided institutions may fill up the management seats by having their own counselling in an objective and transparent manner taking the students from same merit list prepared on the basis of Joint Entrance Test/Common Entrance Test of Central/State Government. With regard to fee, the Interim Policy Regulations provide that, in order to facilitate the technical institutions to work out a reasonable fee structure, the AICTE in pursuance of its statutory obligations under the AICTE Act would formulate suitable guidelines for fee fixation. The interim regulations provide that, as an interim arrangement, the State Governments, may decide a uniform fee structure to be made applicable to all the students including those of management seats, for the current academic year through its fee committee.

According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, following the Supreme Court Judgement in TMA Pai Case (W.P.No. 317 of 1993), the Central Government issued policy guidelines to State Governments/UTs on May 14, 2003 with regard to admission and fee structure in private self-financing medical colleges. As regards merit based admissions, these guidelines, in general, stipulate that at least 75% of total seats in an institution are filled up from students who have passed the common entrance test conducted by the State agency. The Managements of private institutions can fill up upto the maximum of 25% of seats through any rational and transparent method of selection devised by institutions subject to the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria prescribed by the State. The policy guidelines further authorize the States/UT Governments to constitute Standing Committee at the State level to monitor the fee charged by the institutions.

Certain issues pertaining to the guidelines have been challenged before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Investment in agriculture

562. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the investment in agriculture as a percentage of GDP during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans;

(b) the target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether investment as percentage of GDP is very low considering the contribution of agriculture to GDP; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to increase investment in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A Statement showing figures of investment in agriculture as per cent of GDP at market prices (GDPM) is enclosed (*See* below). The investment requirement in agriculture during the Tenth Plan is projected at Rs. 219600 crores at 2001-02 prices.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the relatively low investment in agriculure *vis-a-vis* its share in GDP, efforts are being made to boost investment in agriculture and allied activities. The Union Budget 2003-04 has proposed a new Central Sector Scheme on Hi-tech Horticulture and Precision Farming. The major components of the scheme are use of hi-tech interventions like fertigation, use of biotechnological tools, green food production, and hi-tech green house.

Statement

Showing figures of investment in agriculture as per cent of GDP at market prices

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Investment in Agriculture		GDPM		Investment in Agriculture as percent of GDPM	
	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices
1985-86	6016	13086	277991	570267	2.2	2.3
1986-87	6239	12562	311177	597850	2.0	2.1
1987-88	7154	13101	354343	623371	2.0	2.1
1988-89	8098	13483	421567	684832	1.9	2.0
1989-90	8100	11988	486179	728952	1.7	1.6
1990-91	10963	14836	568674	771295	1.9	1.9
1991-92	11267	13389	653117	778289	1.7	1.7
1992-93	13480	14508	748367	819318	1.8	1.8
1993-94	13523	13523	859220	859220	1.6	1.6
1994-95	16346	14969	1012770	923349	1.6	1.6

Year	Investment in Agriculture		GDPM		Investment in Agriculture as percent of GDPM	
	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices
1995-96	18925	15690	1188012	993946	1.6	1.6
1996-97	21618	16176	1368208	1067445	1.6	1.5
1997-98	22794	15942	1522547	1115247	1.5	1.4
1998-99	22864	14895	1740985	1182021	1.3	1.3
1999-00	28152	17304	1936925	1266358	1.5	1.4
2000-01	27573	16687	2104298	1316340	1.3	1.3
2001-02*	31554	18057	2296049	1388139	1.4	1.3

*Quick Estimates

GDPM—GDP at Market Price.

Suicide by farmers in Punjab

563. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received reports that more than sixty farmers had committed suicides in Punjab during 2002-2003;

(b) whether reports of suicides by farmers under pressure loan recovery by banks and financial institutions during that year were also received from other States, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such recovery continued even in drought hit areas despite Prime Minister's announcement for its non-recovery; and

(d) the steps taken by Government, the Reserve Bank of India and other authorities to relieve the stress of debt recovery from farmers' mind?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government has not received any reports on suicide by farmers in Punjab or any other States during 2002-2003. The Government has also not received any reports on coercive recovery of loans by banks and financial institutions in any part of the country during the said period.